

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:JWVINCENT:LB

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R 101712Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLAS STATE 097195

AFDROUGHT

FOLLOWING DAKAR 2479 ACTION ROME INFO SECSTATE BAMAKO MAY 9TH.

QUOTE:

UNCLAS DAKAR 2479

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652N/A

SUBJ: GRAIN FLIPMENTS FOR MALI

ROME FOR FODAG

REF: A) STATE 087804 C) ROME 6251

1. AT PRESENT TIME, 69,564 MT COMMODITIES IN DAKAR PORT FOR MALI, INCLUDING 36,000 MT (CORN, RICE) PURCHASE BY GOM. TODAY THIS WILL BE INCREASED, WITH (PREVIOUSLY UNANNOUNCED) ARRIVAL OF MOHAWK, TO 72,064 MT. SIMILARLY, ON MAY 10, UK CONSIGNMENT OF 5,000 MT ARRIVES ON BOARD VAL ROSAL, TO BE FOLLOWED SEVERAL DAYS LATER BY EQUIVALENT AMOUNT FROM SAME DONOR, VESSEL NOT NAMED. IN OTHER WORDS, BY MAY 15, TONNAGE ACCUMULATED DAKAR PORT FOR MALI

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WILL HAVE REACHED HORRENDOUS PROPORTION OF 82,064 MT

LATTER FIGURE TAKES NO ACCOUNT OF SORGHUM (4,500 MT)
ARRIVING ABOARD YELLOWSTONE MAE15. HOPEFULLY THIS
SHIP CAN BE DIVERTED ABIDJAN.

2. MUCH OF THE FOOD THUS STOCKPILED AT POLW DESTINED TO
SPOIL, PARTICULARLY CORN AND RICE. ALTHOUGH BY ADVENT
RAINY SEASON MOST OF IT (NEARLY ALL IN THE OPEN) SHOULD
BE COVERED BY TARPULIN. THIS, WHILE PROTECTING AGAINST
RAIN, PROVIDES NO SIMILAR PROTECTION AGAINST HUMIDITY &
MAY EVEN ACCELERATE DECOMPOSITION OF COMMODITY, PARTICULARLY
OF CORN/RICE.

3. MAXIMUM CARRYING CAPACITY CITED FOR MALI/SENEGAL
RAILROAD (REF C) GIVEN AS 15,000 MT/MO. IT MUST BE
UNDERSTOOD THAT OMIS IS AN ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM, AND AN ALL-
INCLUSIVE ONE AT THAT, EMBRACING NON-FOOD IMPORTS AS
WELL AS COMMODITIES. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE
THAT SUCH A LEVEL CAN BE SUSTAINED. RAILWAY'S AVERAGE
CAPABILITY TRANSPORT FOOD COMMODITIES, INCLUDING THAT
PURCHASED COMMERCIALY, PROBABLY CLOSER TO 12,000 MT/
MO.

4. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD APPEAR LIKELY THAT
AS MATTERS NOW STAND, ABOUT 60,000 MT OF COMMODITY WILL
STILL BE AWAITING DISPATCH, AT DAKAR PORT OR IN SOCOPAO
TERRE-PLEINS, TO KAYES/BAMAKO AT THE ONSET OF THE RAINY
SEASON. ONE WONDERS, HELPLESSLY, AT THE APPARENT
INEPTITUDE OF A COORDINATING EFFORT WHICH WAS PRESUMABLY
DESIGNED TO AVERT PRECISELY THE KING OF SITUATION WHICH
THE ZONE FRANCE MALIENNE, MALI-SENEGAL RR, DONORS, AND
FREIGHT FORWARDERS ALIKE, ARE NOW UP AGAINST. TO
SAY NOTHING OF THE INTENDED BENEFICIARIES.

5. SUGGEST ROME DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH OSRO, & KEEP US
INFORMED OF OUTCOME.
AGGREY UNQUOTE RUSH

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